

FOIAb3b1

COUNTRY Cuba

SUBJECT Behavior of Cuban Radio Stations during
the Batista Revolution, Week of 10 March 1952

HOW
PUBLISHED [REDACTED]

WHERE
PUBLISHED Cuba FOIAb3b1

DATE
PUBLISHED 10-17 March 1952

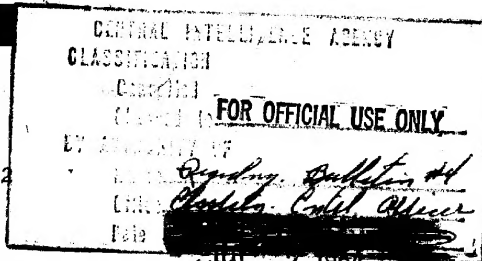
LANGUAGE Spanish

DATE OF
INFORMATION 10-17 March 1952

DATE DIST. 26 March 1952

NO. OF PAGES 1

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.



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In general the Cuban radio stations reflected the apparent apathy of the entire country with regard to the seizure of power by Gen. Fulgencio Batista. News broad- casts listed in schedules for Havana stations on Monday morning were replaced by music. Those stations which habitually present only recorded music on Monday morn- ings made no change in their regular arrangements. The only exception was COCQ, which was unheard until 1845 GMT.

News concerning the progress of events was obtained from COKG Santiago, which provided statements by prominent local persons whose remarks consisted chiefly of requests for calm and cooperation. COJK Camaguey followed its normal schedule, and gave no more information concerning the Acosta resistance than was available else- where. Both COKG and COJK seemed to rely rather heavily on news services in the United States for their news concerning Batista's activities; most of COKG's items on the subject on Monday bore a New York dateline.

There was some rearrangement of schedules after 1800 GMT, when Havana stations would normally have had news and feature programs. COCY at 1800 announced that, "for reasons beyond our control," a musical program would replace its regularly scheduled news broadcast. COBH carried a proclamation by Batista and brief talks by his newly appointed Minister and Undersecretary of the Interior instead of its Ortodoxo-sponsored program at 1800. No news was heard from COBZ from 1800 on, and its regularly scheduled evening broadcast was replaced by music. All stations monitored carried Batista's 8-minute speech from Campo Columbia as promised; however, the speech was given at 2300 instead of 2100 as originally announced, and the stations filled in the time with music.

On the following day COCQ, in its regular 2255 program, explained its silence on Monday morning and the subsequent dearth of news broadcasts by telling of a brief occupation of the station by police and a decision by the station not to give news until troops were withdrawn from other stations. Orders for this with- drawal were promised by the Minister of the Interior at 1700 GMT Tuesday.

Since then schedules have been normal with the notable exception of the Ortodoxo Party's program at 1800 on COBH featuring senatorial candidate Jose Pardo Llada, who, along with presidential candidate Roberto Agramonte, was jailed for a brief period and then released. His program has been replaced by recorded music. However, at 1757 on March 14, Pardo Llada, unannounced and unidentified by the station, went on the air with a diatribe against Batista. The monitor recognized voice, script, and delivery as indubitably those of Pardo Llada. No more has been heard from him.

No further abnormalities have been noted.

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